Sl.No.	Name of State	No. of formal approval
7.	Maharashtra	3931
8.	Madhya Pradesh	4
9.	Punjab	3300
10.	Rajasthan	20
11.	Tamil Nadu	14594
12.	Uttar Pradesh	946
13.	West Bengal	150
	TOTAL:	61015

Import of palm oil

2509. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has given approval for the import of palm oil in large quantities in the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the quantum of import in each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Under the present import policy, import of palm oil is free. Government does not give any specific approval for import of palm oil. The details regarding quantum of import of palm oil in last three years is as follows:

(Lakh MT)

Year	Palm Oil
2005-2006	24.49
2006-2007	27.66
2007-2008 (April-August, 2007)	14.46

SOURCE : DGCI&S

The domestic production of edible oils is in-sufficient to meet the domestic demand. Imports are permitted to maintain uninterrupted supply of edible oils at affordable prices to the consumers.

Places selected for increasing rubber production

2510. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved recently some projects to increase rubber production in the country; and

(b) if so, the places selected for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved the Rubber Plantation Development Scheme and the Scheme for Rubber Development in North East with outlay of Rs. 240.39 crore and Rs. 173.05 crore respectively for implementation during the Eleventh Five Year Plan for increasing rubber production in the country. While the Rubber Plantation Development Scheme is operational in the traditional region comprising the States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu and also the non-traditional region like Karnataka, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, etc., the Scheme for Rubber Development in North East is operational in all the north eastern States namely Tripura, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.

De-reservation of industries

2511. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently announced de-reservation of several industries, reserved erstwhile for Small Scale Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of number of SSI Units dealing with these items indicating estimated capital investment made therein till 31st December, 2007 and number of skilled and unskilled manpower engaged in each of these Units on an average;

(d) the rationale behind taking them out from SSI list;

(e) the year-wise details of items thus de-listed from SSI since 1991-92; and

(f) the details of items added, if any, to the list of items reserved for Small Scale Sector during the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government has recently de-reserved 79 items from the list of items reserved for exclusive manufacture in the Small Scale Sector. The product group-wise details of these items are: Food & Allied Items-04, Paper and paper products-18, Plastic product (including injection moulded thermo plastic products)-08, Chemicals and chemical products-06, Natural essential oils-02, Organic chemicals, Drugs and Drug intermediates-08, Other chemicals and chemicals products-10, Mechanical engineering, excluding transport equipment-04, Electrical machines, appliances and apparatus including electronics and electrical appliances-15, Electronic equipments and components-01, Stationery items-03.

(c) and (d) As per the data available, based on the Third All India Census of SSIs 2001-2002, the number of units, estimated total capital investment and total employment in registered and un-registered sectors dealing with the 79 items de-reserved are 17586, Rs. 155294 lakh and 84128 respectively. These items were removed from the list of items reserved for exclusive manufacture in SSI sector with a view to; increase the competitiveness of industry, facilitate adequate flow of credit, upgrade technology so that the product produced